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SUPERMAN

IN ACTION COMICS

1992

48

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

METROPOLIS



BY
ROGER STERN,
JACKSON GUICE
AND
DENIS RODIER

DOOMSDAY!

A BATTLE THAT HAS RAGED
ACROSS HALF THE NATION SINCE
MIDDAY, HAS LEFT SEVERAL
MEMBERS OF JUSTICE LEAGUE
AMERICA SERIOUSLY INJURED.

THE BLUE BEETLE IS
REPORTED TO BE COMATOSE,
AND ROOSTER GOLL
SERIOUSLY INJURED
FOLLOWING... ONE
MOMENT!

...DOOMSDAY IS NEAR!



THIS JUST HANDED ME...
THE VILLAGE OF GRIFFITH IN
UPSTATE KIRBY COUNTY WAS
ROCKED BY AN EXPLOSION
MOMENTS AGO, AS SUPER-
MAN AND MAXIMA FOUGHT
TO STOP THE CREATURE--
DUBBED DOOMSDAY--



--WHOSE RAMPAGE HAS
BROKEN THE OLA AND LEFT
A TRAIL OF DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION BEHIND HIM.
DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS,
HOWEVER, THE CREATURE
IS REPORTEDLY STILL ON
THE LOOSE.

CIVIL DEFENSE UNITS
IN CITIES ALL ALONG THE
EASTERN SEABOARD ARE
ON ALERT, AS AUTHORI-
TIES TRY TO DETERMINE
IF...

PLEASE, MAXIMA...
TAKE IT SLOW AND
EASY. YOU'VE
SUFFERED A
PRETTY SERIOUS
CONCUSSION.

DOOMSDAY...
MUST STOP
DOOMSDAY...

SORRY
I DIDN'T
GET HERE
SOONER,
SUPERMAN.

I DOUBT
THAT YOU COULD
HAVE HELPED US
AVOID THIS,
GUARDIAN.

WE'VE
NEVER FACED
ANYTHING
QUITE LIKE THIS
BEFORE.

ROGER STERN • JACKSON GUICE & DENA RODIER
WRITER ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY • GLENN WHITMORE • JENNIFER
LETTERER COLORIST FRANK ASSISTANT • MIKE GARLIN
EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SEIBEL & JOE SHUSTER



"...I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANY-
THING--"

K
T
O
O
M

"--ON EARTH OR OFF IT--
TO EQUAL HIM FOR SHEER
BRUTE STRENGTH!"

"IT WAS PAINFUL TO SEE WHAT HE'D DONE TO GUY
GARDNER."

FRAKAMM!

"IF ANYTHING, HE'S MORE
SINGLE-MINDED THAN
DRAAGA WAS... AND HE
SEEMS EVEN MORE
IRRATIONAL THAN LOBO,
IF THAT'S POSSIBLE."

GRAUHRRR!

"THERE'S A FRIGHTENING THOUGHT.
LOBO'S GIVEN ME A HARD TIME
MORE THAN ONCE... BUT LOBO'S
POWER, HIS RAGE, DOESN'T
BEGIN TO COMPARE TO
DOOMSDAY'S!"

"THERE'S NO DISCERNIBLE PATTERN TO HIS MOVEMENTS..."

MY GOD, THE
OVERPASS HAS
COLLAPSED!

WHAT'S THAT
COMING OUT--?

NO! CAN'T
STOP IN TIME!
I'M GONNA
HIT--

HRAURR!



--HIM! HUH?
HE...?

WHAT DID--?
HOW DID HE--?

OMIGOD...
I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS!

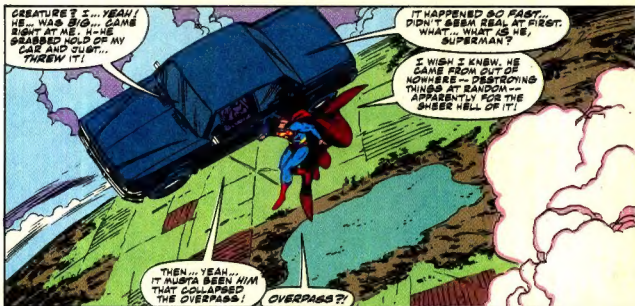
I'M...
FLYING?



"-- HE JUST SEEMS TO
WANDER FROM PLACE TO
PLACE, ATTACKING WHAT
EVER CATCHES HIS EYE."







... AT THE SHOPPING PLAZA ON THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF MIDVALE ...



--YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS
A SINGLE MOMENT OF THE
GREATEST SPECTACLE IN THE
HISTORY OF PROFESSIONAL
WRESTLING!

**WUNK
THUD!**

I'M TALKIN'
TAG TEAMS!
I'M TALKIN'
STEEL
CAGES!

VIDEO CENTER

I'M TALKIN'
KNOCK-DOWN,
DRAG-OUT
BRIDGE
MATCHES!

LEX-MART
SPECIAL LIST PRICE
73 INCH BIG SCREEN
GALAXY TV
\$2,995.00
REMOTE CONTROLLED

UHN?

I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT
WAR-BASH 4000!
THIS WEEKEND,
AT THE METROPOLIS
ARENA!

I'M MAJOR
MAYHEM,
TROOPERS--
AND I'M OUT
FOR BLOOD!

I'M TAKIN' ON THE
MIGHTY GORILLA!
UGLY BEN STUPID!
AND THE MASHED
BONE-CRUSHER!
AND--I--WILL
--PREVAIL!

THIS TIME
IT'S WAR!!!

CAMCO

LEX-MA
SPECIAL L
73 INCH BIG S
\$2,995

THE
METROPOLIS

PRO-WRESTLING
AS YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN IT BEFORE!
THIS WEEKEND AT
METROPOLIS
ARENA...
METROPOLIS
ARENA...
METROPOLIS
ARENA!!

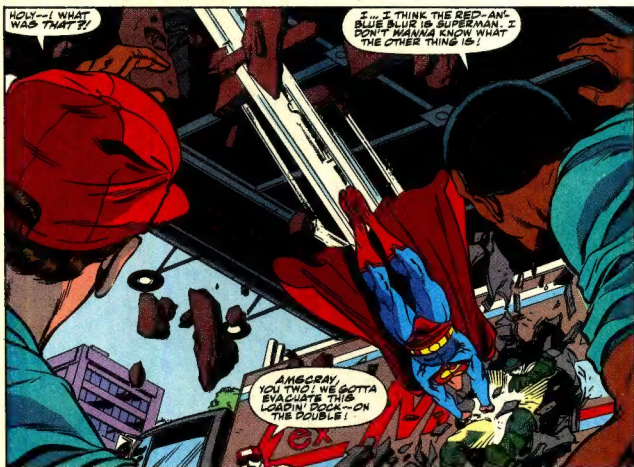
NOW...
WHERE ARE
YA GONNA
GO?

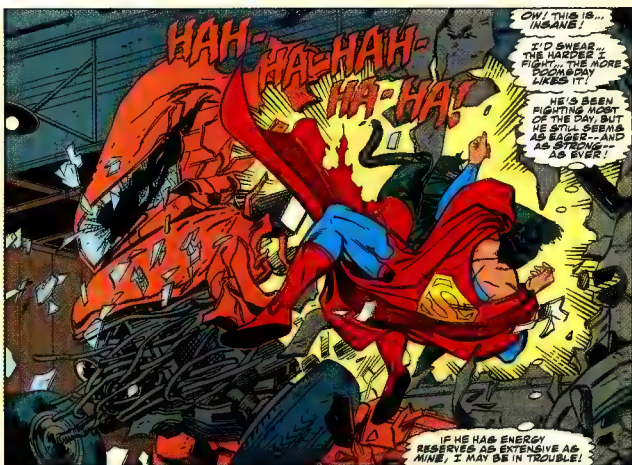
ARENA

WAR-BASH 9

GET READY FOR BLOOD!!

**MHH-TRR-P
L333?**







WELL, MY NEWS DIRECTOR ASSURED ME THAT HE'D DISPATCHED A CAMERA CREW TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS DOOMSDAY NONSENSE...

...SO YOU WON'T GO CHASING OFF AFTER IT, LIKE YOU DID DURING THAT SATANUS AFFAIR. *

IT'S NOT NONSENSE, LEX! THEY'RE IN THE AIR NOW-- DOOMSDAY JUST WRECKED ONE OF YOUR SHOPPING MARTS!

WHAT?! BLOODY HELL!

SUPERMAN'S TRYING TO STOP THE CREATURE, BUT HE'S NOT HAVING MUCH LUCK.

ANYTHING THAT CAN GIVE SUPERMAN THAT HARD A FIGHT MUST BE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL! I'D BETTER GO HELP--!

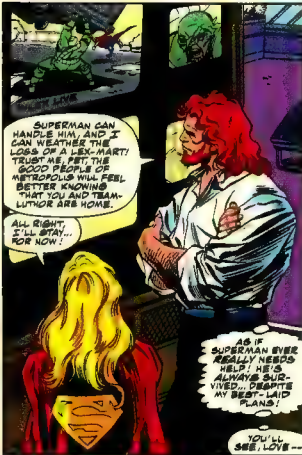


WE'VE BEEN ASH THROUGH THAT LOVE! THE LAST THING WE NEED NOW IS FOR YOU TO GO FLYING OFF! WHENEVER SUPERMAN'S AROUND, THE LOCAL CITIZENRY START GETTING... EDDY...

...I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I CAN'T DENY IT--

--AND WITH THE GU BOY OFF HAVIN' A GO-ROUND WITH SOME USLY DRONZO, THE CITY NEEDS ITS SUPERGIRL TO FILL THE VOID

ARE YOU SURE, LEX? DOOMSDAY'S ALREADY CAUSED SO MUCH DESTRUCTION, AND YOUR NEWSMAN PLACED THE LATEST DEATH TOLL AT OVER A HUNDRED!



SUPERMAN CAN HANDLE HIM, AND I CAN WEATHER THE LOSS OF A LEX-MART! TRUST ME, PET: THE GOOD PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS WILL FEEL BETTER KNOWING THAT YOU AND TEAM-LUTHOR ARE HOME.

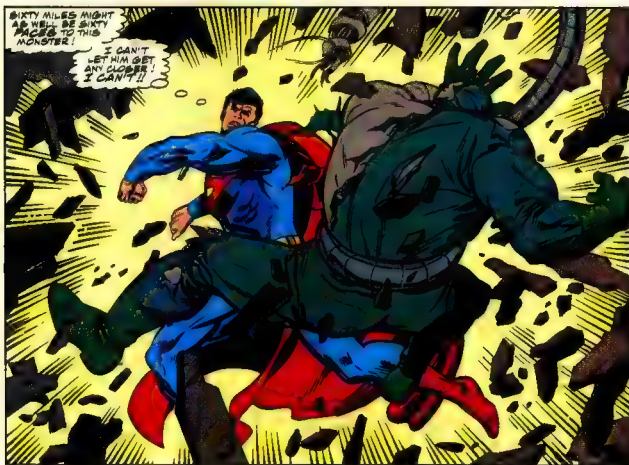
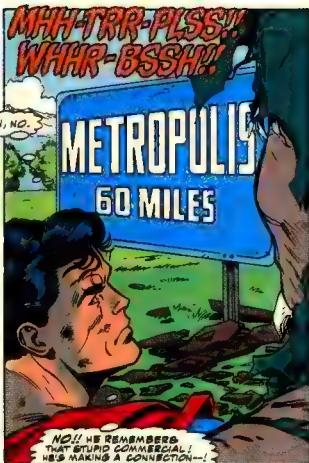
ALL RIGHT, I'LL STAY FOR NOW.

AS IF SUPERMAN EVER REALLY NEEDS HELP! HE'S ALWAYS SURVIVED, DEBATE MY BEST-LAID PLANS!

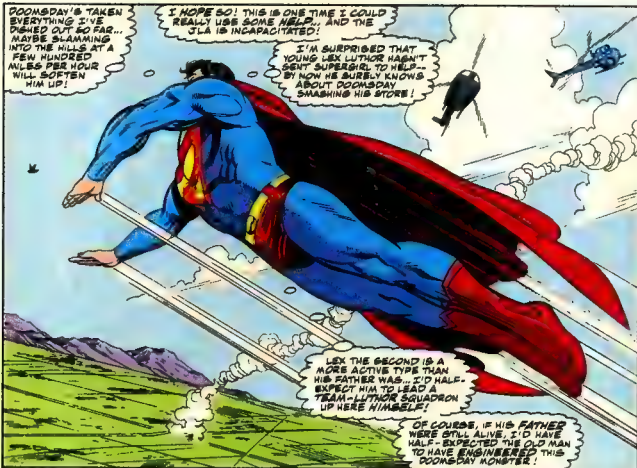
YOU'LL SEE, LOVE--

"...SUPERMAN
WILL BE JUST
FINE!"









"...I THINK SOME SORT OF
FEDERAL PRESERVE IS
TUCKED AWAY UP THERE"

BOOM BOOM!

OHMYGOD!! WHAT'S GOING
ON? IS THIS AN
EARTHQUAKE?



INCONCEIVABLE!
THIS IS ONE OF THE
MOST GEOPHYSICALLY
STABLE REGIONS ON THE
CONTINENT! NO...

"...THE PROJECT
MUST BE UNDER
SOME MANNER OF
BOMBARDMENT!"

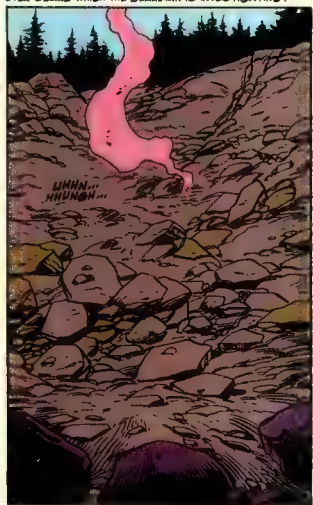
TAKE IT EASY,
WESTFIELD!
WE'LL GET TO
THE BOTTOM
OF THIS.

YES...YES,
YOU'RE
RIGHT,
JOHNSON...
WE MUST!

"...AND YET, I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER IF THIS SEISMIC
DISRUPTION IS SOMEHOW RELATED TO THAT NEARBY MON-
STER SCARE WHICH THE GUARDIAN IS INVESTIGATING."



THE GUARDIAN WOULD
HAVE TO BE AWAY! THIS
IS INORDINATELY INOP-
PORTUNE... UNLESS... YOU
DON'T SUPPOSE--T NO, THE
LEVEL OF COINCIDENCE IS
FAR TOO GREAT...



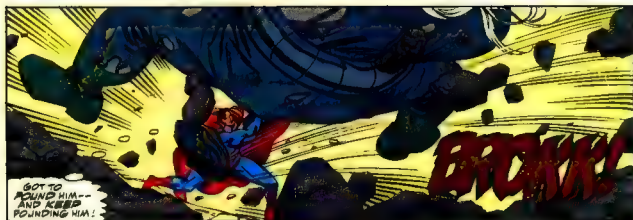
UHHN...
NNUNGN...



HRRAARH!!

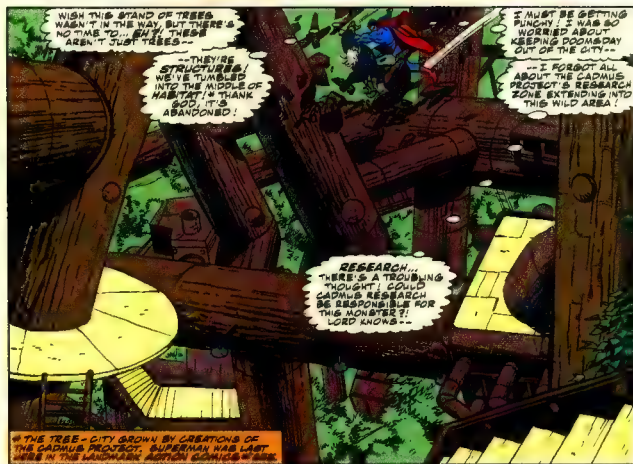
DAMN, HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS!
ANOTHER SECOND, AND HE'LL
BE BACK ON HIS FEET!

I CAN'T
ALLOW HIM
THAT
SECOND!



GOT TO
ROUND HIM--
AND KEEP
POUNDED HIM!

BRUHHH!



WISH THIS STAND OF TREES
WASN'T IN THE WAY, BUT THERE'S
NO TIME TO... EH? THESE
AREN'T JUST TREES--

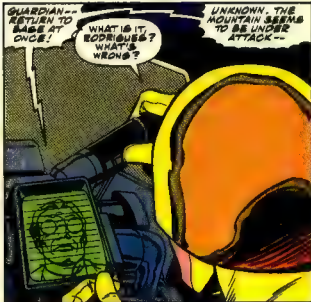
--THEY'RE
STRUCTURES!
WE'VE TUMBLED
INTO THE MIDDLE OF
HABITAT! *THANK
GOD, IT'S
ABANDONED!

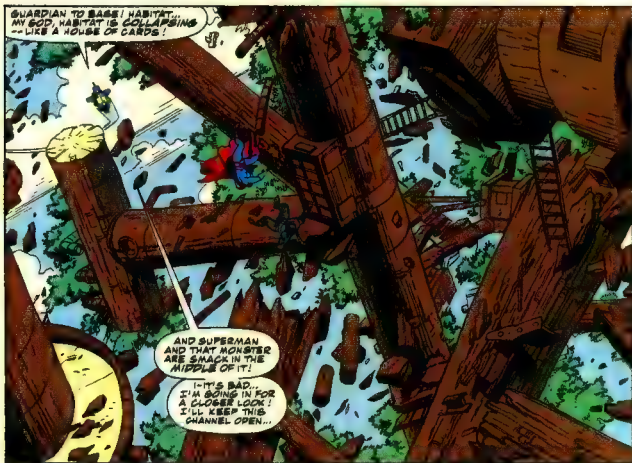
I MUST BE GETTING
PUNCHY! I WAS SO
WORRIED ABOUT
KEEPING DOOMSDAY
OUT OF THE CITY--

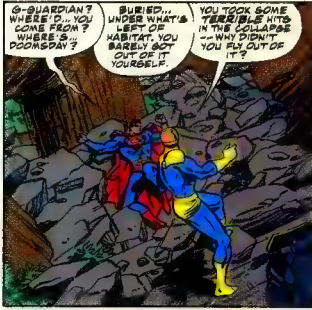
--I FORGOT ALL
ABOUT THE CADMUS
PROJECT'S RESEARCH
ZONE EXTENDING INTO
THIS WILD AREA!

RESEARCH...
THERE'S A TROUBING
THOUGHT! COULD
CADMUS RESEARCH
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THIS MONSTER?!
LORD KNOWS--

* THE TREE-CITY GROWN BY CREATIONS OF
THE CADMUS PROJECT. SUPERMAN HAS LAST
SEEN IN THE LANDMARK ACTION COMICS #288.







G-GUARDIAN?
WHERE'D... YOU
COME FROM?
WHERE'S...
DOOMSDAY?

BURIED...
UNDER WHAT'S
LEFT OF
HABITAT. YOU
BARELY GOT
OUT OF IT
YOURSELF.

YOU TOOK SOME
TERRIBLE HITS
IN THE COLLAPSE
-- WHY DIDN'T
YOU FLY OUT OF
IT?



TOO... WASTED.
NEED TO REST...
SOON AS I...
MAKE SURE...
DOOMSDAY'S...
STOPPED.

RELAX,
YOU GOT
HIM THAT
TIME.

HOPE SO... BUT
HAVE TO BE
CERTAIN. HARD
TO SEE... THROUGH
THE RUINS... EYES
WON'T FOCUS.
I... OH, NO.





MMH-TRR-PLSS!



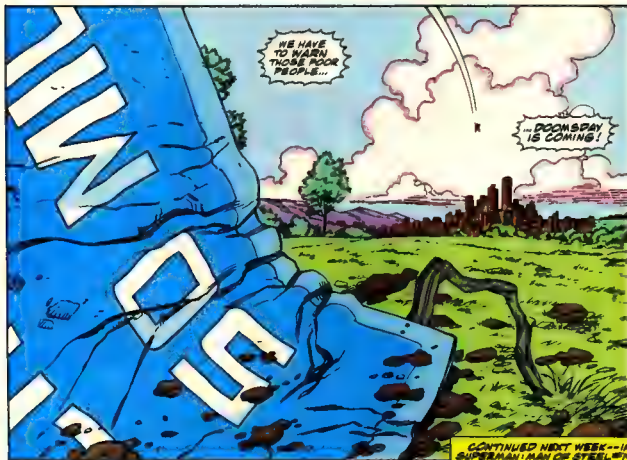
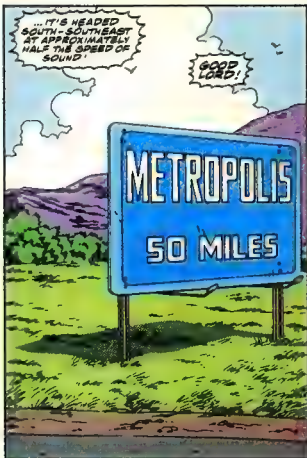
SKRAWK!
GUARDIAN?
WE WERE CUT
OFF FOR A
MOMENT... CAN
YOU READ ME?



WE DETECTED
ANOTHER SHOCK...
NO, TWO MORE
SHOCKS! WHAT'S
GOING ON
THERE?

GUARDIAN?
GUARDIAN!!

DR. RODRIGUES,
THIS IS SECURITY!
SELECT-SCAN RADAR HAS
JUST CONFIRMED THE
APPARENT LAUNCH OF AN
OBJECT-- SOMEWHAT LARGER
THAN MAN-SIZED-- FROM
THE WILD AREA...



RE:ACTION

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Dear Mike:

Something struck me after reading ACTION COMICS #680 (and no, it wasn't an apple on the head).

Lex Luthor is enamored with Supergirl. He's said in the past he will love her forever since she can turn into anyone he wants her to. She can be everyone and anyone. But...what happens when Luthor meets someone else he finds attractive, someone who may be his match or may be alluring in a manner other than appearance? What then? What will happen when (not if) he pursues this individual? What becomes of Supergirl when she finds out? It's inevitable and seems like a time-bomb, certain to occur shortly. Luthor appears the fickle type. While it's entirely possible he'll marry Supergirl first (hey, you did promise us a wedding), for a man who's been married six times before, what's once more?

This should make for interesting reading. Looking forward to it.

Mark Lucas
Los Angeles, CA

Look forward to next year's SUPERGIRL miniseries, too, while you're at it!

Dear Mike:

All right. I hope you're satisfied. It worked. Don't act innocent. You know what I'm talking about.

You guys put Robin in your recent SUPERMAN vampire epic to attract Bat-fans over to see what the Man of Steel's been up to lately. And I admit it—I took the bait. After all, it was within the rules I established for myself upon returning to the comics scene a couple of months ago: I would take it easy and just collect the Bat books—the Caped Crusader being pretty much my favorite DC character, after all—and other titles when the bat-characters guest-starred in them. And fortunately your vampire story was fun, so I was glad I purchased those issues. But then you cleverly went right into your Blaze/Satanus war story without a break

in the action, hoping to drag your newfound bat readers along—a strategy of which Lex Luthor would be proud, by the way.

And I did stick around, even though I usually never liked supernatural SUPERMAN stories. But, as I said, the vampire story was pretty good and the Blaze/Satanus issues have so far been terrific (in the true sense of the word!). But I must say that the cliffhanger at the end of ACTION #680 clinched it. What a great scenario: an office building floating around in a Steve Ditko-ish dimension with a supernatural war taking place in the building amid the coffee machines and photocopiers! With the mundane backdrop of the building's interior, the fantastic elements of the story really stood out. Good move, guys!

So I have a feeling I'm back, blast you. If your supernatural SUPERMAN stories, which used to make my eyes glaze over, are now grabbing me, I've got to see what else you have in store in the months to come.

But I'm still limiting my back-issue forays to the Bat-titles. I have to draw the line somewhere. Okay, maybe I will pick up that Helgrammite story I read about in your letters page.

Arrrrgh!

Joseph P. Menta, Jr.
Philadelphia, PA

We're satisfied, Joseph, and we think you will be, too! To further entice you to stick around, we're sending you a Baldy for being such a good sport about our (heh, heh) Luthorian ploy. Who better than the (formerly) Bald One himself to reward you for your reluctant, yet fortuitous return to our Fortress?

Dear Mr. Carlin:

This was another great job by my favorite Super-team, Guice and Rodier. I also enjoyed the sequences where Supergirl decided to help Superman instead of staying with Lex II. This conflict of interests is being well played out by Roger Stern and looks like it

will eventually come to an explosive finale with Matrix having to pick sides. I like the way you're portraying the new/old? Luthor. We haven't actually seen him do anything evil yet, but you know he's not got Superman's interests at heart. Before I forget, get rid of Blaze. She's BORING! Well, that's my twenty-nine cents' worth. Thank you for your time.

Chris Ellis
Arthur, IL

Blaze is boring? You're lucky she's not around right now to hear that, Chris

Dear Editor:

Wow, I know Roger, Jackson and Denis usually deliver a terrific comic, filled with the best superhero action this side of the Silver Age, but I didn't expect a guest appearance by Mel Brooks! Boy, how'd you know Mel was one of my favorite entertainers? I loved him in "Silent Movie"—wait...you said that's Sam Fosse and not Mel? Gee, I coulda sworn...the resemblance is remarkable (you thought I was going to say "uncanny," didn't you?) But seriously, check out the first page and tell me you don't see a resemblance.

Part two of the Blaze/Satanus War is shaping up to be the best storyline since...the last one you did!

Oh, and I loved the disappearing Newtime building trick. Where's David Copperfield when ya need him?

David Scott
Boise, ID

Dear Mike:

In TAOS #493, the Blaze/Satanus War starts up. Some noteworthy points are as follows: It is interesting how Blaze takes on a pleasant shape to fool Sam Fosse. It is also entertaining to see Titano and the Giant Turtle Boy. Lastly, it is good to see Lois and Clark working together, when it is necessary for Clark to become Superman.

Part two of the Blaze/Satanus War fills ACTION COMICS #680.

Again the general tenor of the last storyline held my interest, even if the good guys are barely holding their own. More points of noteworthiness to me: the fact that Supergirl leaves Luthor to assist Superman allows me to not give up on her assuming a more traditional role (whose idea was this, anyway, her romance with Luthor?). The final fall of Sam Foswell was expected, as well as his not coming out intact when this is over. Finally, in the final page, we see a new dimension. What is it?

Ronald Held
King of Prussia, PA

That new dimension is CRRRAZY, Ron, and we thought of Supergirl's romance with Luthor.

Dear Mike:

The direction in which the Blaze/Satanus War is moving is in total contrast to the first time we met the Infernal Empress (sorry—got a quick attack of the sixties there!). The corruption within her discotheque, the imprisoning rocks of her own realm showing the completeness of her power over all she ruled was...disturbing, horrific, and ultimately, fatal for Jerry White.

Setting the first stage of the present war within the mundane confines of the Newstime building could well be seen as symbolic of a more earthly corruption, I suppose, but the search through the floors and elevators of the building for the enemy doesn't suggest that anyone is set to "Die Hard" this time round. In fact, despite the obvious destruction going on around them, our troops are both largely unharmed and, unfortunately, pretty ineffective. These are the pros and cons of fighting supernatural foes—power is set in a different plane entirely, as is evidenced by Superman's x-ray vision, Lexcorp's gizmo, and Supergirl's strength. Maybe now that the battleground has been removed to that neutral realm, the real battle will start.

"Largely unharmed"? Well, except for poor Foswell, whose fate seems pretty well sealed now. He really lets a promotion go to his head, doesn't he?

It's nice to pick up on the ways that Jackson Guice pays subtle homage to some of the artists who have in the past been known for their connection to supernatural plots: whenever demons enter a story line, can the memory of Jack Kirby be far away? Head-shot on the front page, double-page spread on pages two and three—a wave of nostalgia runs

through me just to see them! And some of the faces and poses, especially on Jimmy, preserve the King's legacy even into the nineties!

And let's not forget Gene Colan, forever linked with DRACULA and NIGHT FORCE, brought back to us in Superman's pose at the top of page nine!

Which is not to say that Jackson's own style isn't already worthy of the word "classic"! His has already become the definitive Supergirl—and so tantalizing because her role is so maddeningly brief!

And it's quite a little game to pick out some of the references floating through the weird dimension on the last page—purple steps to the world of Amethyst, perhaps? An Emerald Eye? Just where in Blazes are they? Is this story poised to open out into areas we've hardly begun to guess at?

Silly question, really. Of course it is!

Jim Jackson
Kent, England

Dear Superteam:

Ah yes, another SUPERMAN super-arc that's gone to Blaze's—or is that "shot to hell"—or should that be "trashed in the office of Mike Carlin"? Well, whatever the terminology, ACTION #680 proved to be a Devil of a good time. Never was there a dead moment.

This title did indeed live up to its namesake. The corruption of Foswell was the *coup de grâce* for this tragic figure. I hope he'll earn a much needed rest by the conclusion.

Jackson and Denis's art fits this particular story very well. They obviously have a panache for drawing demons.

I am having a difficult time reading Collin's...or is that Satanus's motives. My point being: he is a demon and demons cannot be trusted. However, Satanus is having a hell of a time proving himself on the side of the angels: namely, the rescuing of Lois and Jimmy (excellent scene there, by the way), helping the welfare of the building's occupants, and ultimately transporting the entire establishment in order to prevent innocent casualties. A demon with morals—outstanding!

Too bad Etrigan isn't around.

Joe Kucharski III
Haddon Heights, NJ

It's obvious that Satanus is getting to you too, Joe. Well, better the devil you know...

—Jennifer Frank
The Devil, You Know

NEXT WEEK: in MAN OF STEEL #19, Superman continues fighting the fiercest battle of his life, but the end is near. Written by Louise Simonson, pencilled by Jon Bogdanove and inked by Dennis Janke.

IN TWO WEEKS: The end is here. **SUPERMAN #75**, written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: Metropolis is devastated...in more ways than one. All that remains is for the survivors to pick up the pieces and get on with life following the greatest tragedy of this century. **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #498** is by Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett and Doug Hazlewood.

IN ONE MONTH: in ACTION #685, Supergirl tries to fill the void left by Doomsday in Metropolis. Roger Stern writes, Jackson Guice pencils and Denis Rodier inks **ACTION COMICS #685**.

This month's cover was pencilled and inked by Art Thibert and colored by Denis Rodier. Nothing funny or pithy to add...this battle looks like it's getting serious.



NEXT MONTH:





HERE LIES
EARTH'S GREATEST
HERO

SUPERMAN #75



ON SALE NOV. 20

MORE SUPER-HEROES THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT

(ASSUMING THAT YOU CAN GET TO THE STORES)

SHOWCASE '93



• TWELVE-ISSUE MAXISERIES MONTHLY FROM DC

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THEY CALL HIM
CHARMING:

Beast
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